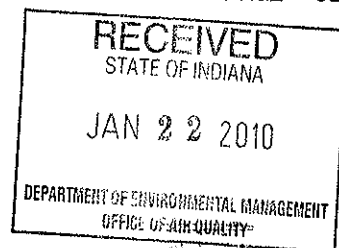


OFFICIAL COMMENT

Indiana's Water Rules Still Don't Protect Lake Michigan

I'm a big fan of the Alliance For the Great Lakes, and I support them whenever they need help with local publicity. I received an email notice about an upcoming deadline regarding public participation for a water quality ruling decision. Since this affects Lake Michigan – and all of us who swim in it regularly – I've copied the notice in it's entirety below:

I object to Indiana rules allowing more Lake Michigan pollution!

Other concerns:

* The rule includes several unjustified exemptions, and excludes phosphorus, sediment and other key pollutants for which no thresholds exist from protective provisions — even though these pollutants are known to harm water quality.

* The rule exempts so-called “de minimis” — or low-level — new pollution discharges from a federal requirements that the pollution is a necessary byproduct of important local economic or social benefit.

The result: Using the methods proposed in the draft rule, state regulators could permit multiple new low-level discharges of a pollutant that together have a significant cumulative impact on Lake Michigan's water quality, without any evidence that the additional pollution is justified. I received an email notice about a deadline regarding public participation for a water quality ruling decision.

The Alliance is working with a coalition of groups in Indiana to strengthen the federally mandated rule, which sets a limit for how much new pollution can be discharged to Lake Michigan and other waterways in the state.

Lake Michigan deserves the highest level of protection from new or increased pollution. Indiana's proposed rule must be strengthened to protect water quality as the Clean Water Act intended. All comments must be postmarked, faxed or hand delivered to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management by Jan. 30, and exclude phosphorus, sediment and other key pollutants for which no thresholds exist from protective provisions.

LSA Document #08-764 (Antidegradation) water quality.

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Fax comments to: (317) 233-5517.

M.E.D.

Chicago, IL

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